

President's Awards and Honors Column

Far be it from me to break with tradition, especially a tradition with which I thoroughly agree! Each year the outgoing president has the pleasure of saying "Thank You" to the many people whose efforts have enriched our congregation and our community. The "Thank Yous" are never really adequate to the task, but then we all know those who earn them never work to get the koved. They work for the love of the work, the love of the Congregation; they work because they believe and are committed to the notion that, as Rabbi Tarfon said, "The day is short and the work is great... and the reward is much. It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

The names below appear in no order; ranking is impossible and the alphabet predictable and boring!

It is my privilege to award **Major Honors** to the following Sha'ar Zahavniks in acknowledgement of continuous years of continuous dedication.

Ron Lezell—who has never taken a break; fulfilling leadership responsibility, committee work, and the single-handed management of our Social Action activities.

Leslie Bergson—for her leadership of the Ritual Committee and the myriad attendant tasks.

Aaron Cooper—for his leadership role in the successful work of the Rabbi Search Committee.

Sam Thal—who has been a guiding light since the very beginning. And thanks for the wonderful pictures we enjoy in *The Forward*.

David Stein—who has brought a new level of imagination and creativity to the role of Treasurer and heightened our understanding of tzedakah.

Sharyn Saslafsky—whose imaginative approach to Public Relations has made us famous, and for her dedication to the successful undertaking of the Rabbi Search Committee.

(Continued on page 9)

Welcome Rabbi Kahn

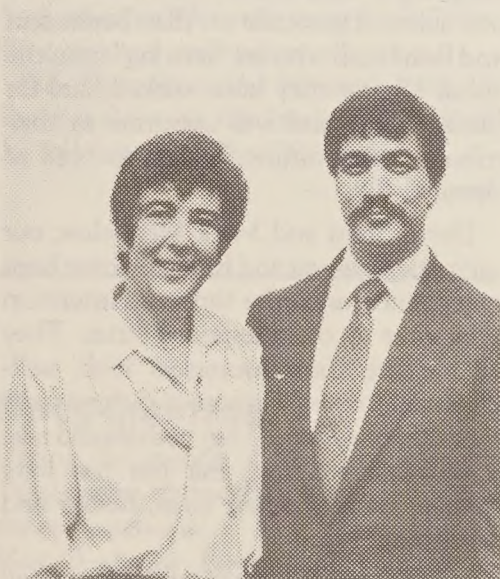
This month, Rabbi Yoel Kahn joins the Sha'ar Zahav family as a significant member. Actually, Rabbi Kahn is scheduled to be here in time to join the CSZ contingent marching up Market Street in the Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade on June 30th. He

will be participating in the Leadership Advance at Wildwood Ranch the weekend of July 12-14. Also in July, Rabbi Kahn is scheduled to lead services on Friday evening, July 19th, and will be leading the special Tisha B'Av service on Saturday evening, July 27th.

In June, President Leila Raim was delighted that she and Catherine were able to accept an invitation to witness Rabbi Kahn's ordination on Sunday, June 9th at Temple Emmanuel in New York and to join his friends and family in the celebration that followed at the Hebrew Union College. Sha'ar Zahav's importance in Yoel's future was also symbolized by Leila being a co-leader of the kiddush and motze that began the reception at HUC.

In late June, Rabbi Kahn moved to San Francisco with his friend Dan Bellm, a freelance writer. Once they get settled, Rabbi Kahn will be able to set up a schedule; in the meantime, contact the office and check with Marilyn regarding his current schedule and availability for meeting and counseling. Also, since he has not yet secured permanent housing, please contact Marilyn if you have leads on a suitable apartment for rent.

But for now, b'ruchim habayim to Rabbi Kahn and to Dan as they settle into their new home at Sha'ar Zahav.



Leila Raim and Rabbi Kahn at the reception celebrating his ordination on June 9th.

Maos Chitim

There has been a wonderful response to our Passover Maos Chitim Appeal — a special fund to be used for contributions to feed the hungry. To date, \$2,200 has been collected, all of which has been distributed to the UAHF Ethiopian Relief Fund, the S.F. Food Bank, the S.F. Hospice's Meals on Wheels Program and the S.F. AIDS Foundation's food program. Our thanks to the many individuals who responded to this appeal; individual names were listed in the Contributions column of last month's and this month's *Forward*.

—David Stein, Treasurer

Women's Havurah

August Pool Party

The Women's Havurah will be gathering at noon on Sunday, August 4th, for our Summer BBQ and Pool Party at Betty and Marion's home in Danville. All the women of the Congregation are invited to attend and to bring friends. Please bring something to grill and a side dish to share. For more information, call Betty at 837-2856 or Allyce at 863-8796 (office)

—Allyce Kimerling, Chair

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained three new members in June. A warm welcome to new members:

Barak Gale
William Goldstein
Robert Joshua

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Stephanie Hannaford and Irene Ogus (editorial and production); Allan Berenstein, David Gass, Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

President's Column

I woke up one morning in June knowing that my life would somehow be different during the next 12 months. The first sign of change was the decision I thought I'd never make. I've changed my phone number in order to have the communication tools necessary for a modern synagogue president: call waiting, conference calling and speed dialing. (For those keeping records, the new number is 641-5113.) Now I can join the ranks of Sha'ar Zahavniks who proudly say, "Hold on ... that's my other line!"

On a more serious note, I am beginning my Presidency with enormous pride in our Congregation and its membership. We have grown a great deal in the past year. Much of that growth is due to the quality of our outgoing officers and Va'ad members. We owe a debt of gratitude to Allan Berenstein and Ron Lezell who are "retiring" from the Va'ad. I know they have worked hard for Sha'ar Zahav and will continue to contribute in the future. Thanks to both of them.

David Stein and Mark Mendelow, our outgoing Treasurer and Recorder, have been most generous in the time and attention they gave to their responsibilities. They each leave their successors with well-organized "offices" because of the great jobs that they have done. They both should take a well-deserved rest, but not too long because we need their ideas, humor and sensitivity.

It is very hard for me to put into words all the feelings I have about our outgoing President. From the first time we met, a special relationship developed between us. Leila Raim's Presidency has been marked by the overwhelming pride and joy she has exhibited throughout the year. Those feelings have been present on the bima, at Va'ad meetings and UAHC activities and were present as she represented us at the ordination of our new Rabbi, Yoel Kahn. Leila, you have done an outstanding job and we all love you, especially Catherine who has graciously shared you with us this past year. May you both reflect back on the past year with much happiness and pride.

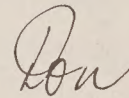
Changing the subject a bit...most of you are aware of the vacancy in the position of Treasurer. Several people have been working hard on securing a qualified candidate for me to recommend to the Va'ad. Our by-laws provide for a President to appoint, with the approval of 2/3 of the Va'ad, a person to be acting Treasurer. I fully expect to report

a successful result to that effort and am confident that we will have a new Treasurer by the July Va'ad meeting. Look for more information in the next issue of *The Forward*.

As I begin my year, let me thank all of you for the trust which you are placing in me. I hope that I will fulfill the expectations which you have. Doing so will take your support and your input. We have the potential for another wonderful year ahead — a year of unprecedented opportunity with our new rabbi. It will also be a year of challenge; we must face important questions on issues ranging from our financial structure (yes folks, read this as dues), to our need to speak out on issues of social concern and importance. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Va'ad meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month. We meet in the Oneg Room at 6:30 and usually conclude at 9:30.

As we begin 1985/86 let us all keep an open mind about growth and change but above all remember that we are a family, full of love and support for each other.

Shalom,



Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

**Not a member of
Sha'ar Zahav?**

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114, or pick up at services, every Friday night at 8:15.

Tisha B'av: Solace In Community

Tisha B'Av is probably most widely known as the commemoration of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, but it is actually a day of national mourning for the Jewish people. On this day, the ninth of the month of Av, terrible events have occurred throughout Jewish history. Both the first and second Temples were destroyed, Bar Kochba's rebellion against the Romans was defeated, the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, and, most recently, the first transport of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to the extermination camps occurred on Tisha B'Av, 1942. On Tisha B'Av, we observe many of the same customs that we do when mourning a loved one — sitting on the floor or a low stool, refraining from wearing leather shoes, refraining from greeting others. It is the only day of the year that Jews who customarily wear tallit and tefillin at morning service do not do so, and the only day that they do wear them at afternoon service. The book of Lamentations is read, the Hebrew chanted to a keening melody used at no other time of the year. In some congregations, the ark is draped in black, or the Torah is removed from the ark.

When I was a child, Tisha B'Av was the only Jewish holiday that I never experienced firsthand. Hebrew school was out for the summer, and my parents didn't observe the fast. I knew when it was (my mother's little calendar from the Girls Orphanage in Jerusalem was always available to check any date of Jewish interest, and if we didn't check, my mother told us anyway) and I read about it, but that was not the way I usually learned about Jewish observances. I didn't read about them; I lived them.

The first and only time I ever "lived" Tisha B'Av — experiencing it as a full day of fasting, prayer and thought — was during the four summers I worked as a counselor at a Jewish girls camp in Massachusetts. Our observance was a mixture of traditional religious customs and 1960's "relevant rap" — both somewhat adjusted to allow for the variety of ages involved. There was always a play, usually on the subject of the Holocaust, discussion groups, Maariv and Shacharit services, and a lot of quiet time. The money saved on desserts and fasters' meals was donated to charity. We wore white clothing, and sneakers — which in those days were not made from leather.

I was in my late teens then, but only now, in retrospect, am I able to define the feelings I still hold about Tisha B'Av at camp. I remember the sadness and solemnity of

the day, but I also remember the relief, the shedding of fear in talking about the calamities that have befallen the Jews, in learning more about them, in bringing our fears from the backs of our minds into a discussion. I remember the sense of security in examining the tragic events of Tisha B'Av within an existing, thriving Jewish community.

The experience of spending Tisha B'Av as an observance of the entire community in which I lived illustrated the importance of having a community in which to grieve. The Jewish laws of mourning call for community. Since mourners are very limited in their activities, not even being permitted to cook for themselves, or to leave the house, it is necessary for them to be cared for by other members of the community. And, when we all mourn, as we do on Tisha B'Av, we need each other even more.

(Ed. Note: Since the 9th of Av falls on Shabbat this year, the Fast is observed on the following day, the 10th of Av.)

— Leslie Bergson

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of May, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

May 3—Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski, in appreciation to CSZ for allowing Leila the privilege of being its President and in honor of Leila's parents.

May 10—Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of their parents' visit. Flowers provided by Alan Linder in honor of his mother's visit.

May 17—The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation.

May 24—Mike Rankin, in honor of Ruth and those who follow her spirit, especially in our own congregation.

May 31—Ron Lezell and Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Mark Feldman. Flowers provided by Leslie Bergson, in honor of Nanci's book being published.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the Synagogue Office (861-6932), or contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg. The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

All Family Coalition II

Last Summer, All Family Coalition was formed to respond to the Moral Majority's Family Forum held in SF concurrent with the Democratic Convention. On June 12 of this year, All Family Coalition II met at M.C.C. to formulate a response to the tenth annual meeting of North American Exodus International scheduled to be held at SF State in early July.

This response is planned to include several different approaches:

1. A major news conference will kick off the week prior to the Gay Day Parade. This will include a series of discussion/debate type conferences and newspaper articles outlining an affirmation of personal development for gay and lesbian peoples in their lives as well as their rightful status in society.

2. Literature of the endorsing agencies of the Coalition will be distributed on the campus of SF State each day of the Exodus conference. Persons interested in participating should contact Pam Yearout (756-4078) for times and location.

3. A rally/demonstration is also planned at the campus on July 4th from noon until 2 p.m. to stress the theme "Independence from Guilt." There will be feature speakers and the usual demonstration encouragements such as singing, calling out the names of people hurt by religious oppression, and the like.

4. An interfaith religious service is planned for the evening of July 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at Dolores St. Baptist Church (Dolores at 15th). Our congregation intends to participate in this endeavor. Any interested persons should contact Leslie Bergson for details.

5. Polk and Castro neighborhood response was also discussed. All Family Coalition

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Education Committee

A Report & What's Next?

The Education Committee of CSZ has been successful in bringing to our very own shul a varied and pertinent program of lectures, study groups, and workshops. These offerings have presented CSZ members and the community with opportunities for increasing our knowledge of Judaism and Jewish history.

Though CSZ currently does not yet have formal course offerings, the Education Committee has brought to the synagogue in just the last six months:

- Richard Beatty, who described the Third Reich's propagation of laws against gay men, paralleling those against the Jewish people, in a lecture on "The Homosexual Ex-

perience during the Holocaust."

- Dr. Daniel C. Matt, a scholar of Jewish mysticism and translator of the Zohar, who gave us a "Taste of Zohar."

- Professor Daniel Khazoom, who related what Jewish life in Iraq was like, from the beginning of the synagogue as an institution to the creation of the State of Israel, in a talk on "The Sephardic Experience."

- CSZ member Susan Greenspan, who gave us instruction in Hebrew Calligraphy and described the mysticism in the Hebrew alphabet.

- Rabbi David Blank, Teacher of Inner Torah, is leading a two-part "Staying in Touch" workshop this summer. Part II will

be held on Sunday, July 21st on Music and Prayer. (Call the office for more information.)

Besides these events, a weekly Torah study group meets on Monday evenings. A Book Circle led by Jonathan Schwartz of the Jewish Community Library was yet another of the activities that have complemented Sha'ar Zahav's many programs.

As the Education Committee plans for the year ahead, your thoughts and participation in the educational functions of our synagogue are welcomed.

—Ben Schalit, on behalf
of the Education Committee

High Holiday Services Participation

Planning for the High Holidays is already underway, and the Congregation would once again like to provide an opportunity for all members to participate in High Holiday services. We will be assigning readings in English and Hebrew at the various services. Only those members who return this form to us by Thursday, August 15th can be assured an opportunity to participate.

Please return this form to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114 by Thursday, August 15th.

Name of Member _____

Telephone(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

I would like to participate at:

Rosh Hashanah

- ☐ Sunday evening, September 15
- ☐ Monday morning (Shacharit), September 16
- ☐ Monday late morning (Musaf), September 16

Yom Kippur

- ☐ Tuesday evening (Kol Nidre), September 24
- ☐ Wednesday morning (Shacharit), September 25
- ☐ Wednesday late morning (Musaf), September 25
- ☐ Wednesday late afternoon (Yizkor), September 25
- ☐ Wednesday late afternoon (Neilah), September 25
- ☐ Any service
- ☐ I can read Hebrew well
- ☐ I would like to learn a Hebrew chant

Support A Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support to — for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry, National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

July Yahrzeits

- LeRoy Baldwin, Father of Lawney Baldwin
- 1 William Gross, Father of Roger Gross
- 8 Edward Ingersoll, Father of Alex Ingersoll
- 15 Clara Magoon, Aunt of Betty Kalis
- 15 Allan Zimmerman, Father of Mike Zimmerman
- 16 Nelly Meyer, Mother of Nancy Meyer
- 17 (28 Tamuz) Samuel Irving Toporek, Father of Elliott Toporek
- 18 Eli Shaber, Father of David Shaber
- 21 Samuel Kaufman, Grandfather of Marianne Sussman
- 27 (9 Av) Sadie Radetsky, Grandmother of Allan Berenstein
- 28 Harry A. Benderoff, Father of Bart Benderoff
- 29 Ernest Rosenstein, Brother of Jerry Rosenstein
- 31 (13 Av) Mary Brown, Grandmother of Mel Krisch

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

All Family Coalition

(Continued from page 3)

tion II intends that all of these responses should be non-violent and non-confrontational, but the coalition recognizes that the conference may draw any number of people from other areas whose intentions may not exactly match those of the conferees.

I spoke of our Congregation's positive direction in leading members and others toward a lifestyle of hope and affirmation of our gay and lesbian backgrounds and our sure compatability with G-d.

It seems a matter of outreach to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters that we participate in some part of these events, if not in all of them. Those two weeks will see us standing up in pride in our lives, pride in our movement.

Honoring those participants with our presence allows them to honor us with theirs. They ask our participation and unity with them. This is just one more method of finding solutions to those who espouse the constant statements of "anti-gay," "anti-sex," "gay-lesbian sinful lifestyle," and the like.

How about it, CSZ? Do you remember the "Falwell Concert" last summer?

—Lawney Baldwin, on behalf of the Social Action committee

Va'ad Report

The June Va'ad meeting was held on the 10th and chaired by Don Albert, Vice-President, filling in for a working/vacationing Leila Raim. In a written President's report, the formation of a Liaison Committee to work with Rabbi Kahn was announced; Leila Raim, Dan Chesir and Aaron Cooper will serve on this committee. In his Treasurer's report, David Stein announced that a remarkable \$2,200 was collected as a result of the Maos Chitim appeal made at the Congregational Seder last April. This will be divided and sent to the UAHC Ethiopian Relief Fund, the Food Bank, The Meals-on-Wheels Program (of San Francisco Hospice) and to the Food Drive of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. David also announced that \$164.51 will be donated to our Phooey on AIDS Fund by the United Way, as a direct result of people designating the fund for their United Way contributions.

Don announced that we will be able to send three delegates and three alternates to the UAHC Biennial in Los Angeles this fall. Twenty-five people including Rabbi Kahn, are expected to attend the 1985 Advance to be held at Wildwood Ranch in July. The Va'ad also learned that the 10th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held in Amsterdam in 1987. Plans are proceeding for the installation of officers to be held on June 28, and for the Gay Freedom Day Parade to be held later that same weekend.

Committee Reports: David Gellman provided the Va'ad with a lengthy and thorough report from the Building Committee outlining their recent work with the Finance Committee to prepare a proposal for memorials and dedications. David also presented the Va'ad with a more detailed report regarding the estimates obtained for the renovation of the upstairs. The Va'ad will now refer this issue to the Finance Committee to explore the different options for financing this project. The Membership Committee presented three new members to be voted into our congregational family. The Va'ad applauded Leslie Bergson heartily for her work as the Ritual Committee chair. Leslie announced that Daniel Chesir will succeed her in this role and that the committee will be meeting in July with Rabbi Kahn to begin planning for the High Holidays.

The Public Relations Committee is hard at work preparing for the arrival of Rabbi Kahn. They will be sending out press releases and arranging to introduce Rabbi

July Birthdays!

- 7 Betty Kalis
- 8 Ben Schalit
- 9 Steve Elman
- 9 Bob Goldware
- 11 Laurent Gasperini
- 12 Rochelle Wald
- 16 Alice Perlman
- 20 Joan Blazewick
- 22 Barbara Nabors-Glass
- 23 Nancy Meyer
- 24 Abigail Abbuehl
- 28 David Levine
- 28 Cheryl Orvis
- 29 Steve Lowinger
- 30 Prudence Carter

Kahn to the local press in one-to-one interviews. The Women's Havurah is planning a Summer Party at the home of Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman for Sunday, August 4th, and is also currently planning their programs for this fall. The Social Action Committee is working with the All Family Coalition II to confront the Exodus International Convention which will be held at San Francisco State over the July 4th weekend. Sha'ar Zahav will be involved in the planning of an Ecumenical Service to be held that week, at the Dolores Street Baptist Church on July 3rd.

Want to be more involved with the movers and shakers of Sha'ar Zahav? Then save the second Monday evening of each month and come to a Va'ad meeting. Your interest and participation is most welcome and greatly appreciated!

—Mark Mendelow, Recorder

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Social Action

Local Church/State Debate

During the past several months, the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, The Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties (JCRC) has conducted informal discussions regarding the church/state separation issues involved in the public display of religious symbols. Input into these discussions came from some 30 organizations in the area, including members of CSZ's Social Action Committee. JCRC recently released the following conclusions regarding this issue:

The JCRC has determined that, within the organized Jewish community, there is an overwhelming consensus of opposition to all religious symbols at any time in or on government buildings and structures such as City Hall and the Golden Gate Bridge. There is also overwhelming consensus in opposition to publicly financed or sponsored religious displays anywhere.

However, the JCRC also discovered that there is not a clear consensus within the organized Jewish community on the subject of religious symbols being used on a temporary basis in the course of the free exercise of religion by private citizens in public places which are traditional open forums, such as parks, squares and thoroughfares. The discussion and vote revealed a clear and substantial split within the Jewish community on that specific matter. About half of the community thinks that there is a distinction to be made between a city hall and a public park, which is a traditional public forum. The other half does not see such a distinction.

Those who make that distinction reflect the tension that exists between the section of the First Amendment prohibiting the establishment of religion by the government, and the section of the First Amendment protecting the free exercise of religion. The main concern is with any appearance that government is itself sponsoring one religion or another. The half of the community which would not oppose the temporary display of religious symbols in a public park by private citizens in their exercise of free religion, would however, along with the rest of the community, oppose any more permanent display of religious symbols in that public park or any use of government funds.

Those opposing religious symbols even in places of traditional open forum are con-

(Continued on page 9)

Ritual Calendar

Friday, July 5

Sha'ar Zahav Anniversary Service

Parshah: Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9

Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8

Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday, July 17

Parshah: Pinhas, Num. 25:10-30:1

Haftarah: I Kings 18:46-19:31

Paul Cohen, Services

Friday, July 19

Parshah: Mattot-Massei,

Num. 30:2-36:13

Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, July 26

Shabbat Hazon

Parshah: D'varim, Deut. 1:1-3:22

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27

Leslie Bergson, Services

Saturday, July 27

Saturday Morning Services,

10:30 a.m.

Daniel Chesir, Services

Tisha B'Av Service, 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

August Preview

Friday, August 2

Shabbat Nachmu

Parshah: Va-Etchanan,

Deut. 3:23-7:11

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund—

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the 25th anniversary of Merna and Stewart Saliman

Cantor Samuel B. Radwine, in honor of Rabbi Kahn's ordination.

Pauline and Albert Stein, in honor of CSZ **Steve Elman**, in honor of the birthdays of David Stein, Jerry Rosenstein and Eric Keitel

Mark Mendelow, in thanks to Leila for all her hard work during her presidency

Anonymous, in honor of President Duarte of El Salvador

Milton and Shirley Keitel

Bob Goldware, in honor of the birthday of Jay Feinstein

For the Torah Fund—

Don Albert, in honor of the work of the Rabbi Search Committee

Leslie Bergson, in appreciation for the repair work Marilyn O'Keeffe did on our Torah

For the AIDS Fund—

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the memories and yahrzeits of Mark Feldman and Duff Kreitzberg

For the Education Fund—

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Rabbi Yoel Kahn's ordination

To the Passover Maos Chitim Appeal—
Marilyn Hertzberg

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	12 Tamuz 1 Torah Study 7-10pm	13 2	14 3 Interfaith Service Dolores Baptist SVELTE, 7:30pm	15 4 All Family Coalition II	16 5 CSZ's Anniversary Service	17 6
18 7 Fast of Tamuz	19 8 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm	20 9 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2	21 10 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am Newsletter Deadline SVELTE, 7:30pm	22 11 Newsletter Comm. 130-E Landers 7:30pm	23 12 Leadership Advance Wildwood Ranch	24 13
25 14 Leadership Advance Wildwood Ranch	26 15 Torah Study 7-10pm	27 16	28 17 Social Action, 7pm SVELTE, 7:30pm	29 18	1 Av 19 Rosh Chodesh	2 20
3 21 Workshop: Rabbi D. Blank Inner Torah Part II, 1-5pm	4 22 Torah Study 7-10pm	5 23	6 24 Education Comm. 7pm SVELTE, 7:30pm	7 25 Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr.	8 26	9 27 Morning Services, 10:30am Tisha B'Av Service, 7:30pm
10 28 Fast of Av (Tisha B'Av)	11 29 Torah Study 7-10pm	12 30	13 31 SVELTE, 7:30pm			

Softball Game

Yes, it's that time of year again! On Sunday, August 11th, all members, friends and family of CSZ are invited to participate in our Annual Softball Game (or some semblance thereof) and picnic.

This event has always been lots of fun. The softball game is perfect for anyone who, as a child, was chosen last. Just ask last year's winner of the Golden Band-Aid Award, Paul Cohen; or the member who upon finding an old baseball mitt deep in the outfield with "Babe Ruth" imprinted on it, exclaimed, "How do you suppose I found her mitt?"

As usual the game will be held at Julius Kahn Playground in the Presidio, with festivities beginning at 11:00 a.m. So plan on bringing a picnic lunch and a baseball mitt (if you have one). Bats, balls, bases and a charcoal grill will be provided. Hope to see you there.

—Ron Lezell, Head Coach

10th Anniversary

On June 1st, Beth Ahavah of Philadelphia celebrated their 10th anniversary with a dinner/dance. Our congratulations to Beth Ahavah. Mazel Tov!

Remember

to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our **yahrzeit or anniversary records**, please call or write the synagogue office.

AIDS Food Drive Update

In recent months, the cast of 42nd Street has been sponsoring an AIDS Food Drive throughout the Bay Area and Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael is now the drop-off point for Marin County. Our appreciation to Rodef Sholom for joining in this important project.

Meanwhile, our own Food Drive for the SF AIDS Foundation is continuing. Begun over a year ago, the baskets are still getting filled up, and we are able to make weekly deliveries to the Foundation office for use in their residence program. Let's keep filling the collection baskets located in the Oneg Room with dry or canned foods, household items and toiletries — especially those items not covered by food stamps. If you bring just an item or two each week to Friday night services, it will help our brothers immensely.

So Ask Aunt Yente,

Dear Aunt Yente,

So last month you said that we should try to pray in a minyan. Please, what is a minyan, and can I get it at Macy's Men's Store? And why is my Ralph Lauren shirt not good enough?
Bothered on Buena Vista

Dear Bothered,

Yes, you should try to pray in a minyan. And although Aunt Yente has prayed in both designer minyans and Levi and leather ones, she should make clear from the beginning that a minyan is not something to wear; it means instead a group of ten people to pray with.

(The tone of your question suggests to your Aunt Yente that maybe you knew this already. This does not bother your Aunt Yente; she already knows what to expect from people with tsimmes embroidered on their shirt fronts. Actually, Aunt Yente is now negotiating to bring out her own line of designer clothing, the "Jews just want to have fun" collection. Unlike other designers she could name, however, your Aunt Yente believes in truth in packaging, so each of her shirts will have a real pickled herring on the pocket, held on with velcro. Let's see them do that with alligators!)

Getting back to your question, when Aunt Yente talks about a minyan, she means ten or more people, the minimum number of people you need for public prayer. Under orthodox law, a minyan means ten Jewish males over the age of 13. (Women, you see, are supposed to be so busy making kugel and having babies that they can't be counted on to perform religious obligations that fall at specific times, like praying. So for an orthodox minyan, they don't count.) However, enforcing this particular bit of halacha carries its own risks: the last cantor who tried to omit Aunt Yente while counting for a minyan now performs with the San Francisco Mime troupe.

So what good is a minyan? As Aunt Yente already told you last month, most prayers you should say whether you're alone or with a congregation; but a few of the most important ones are said only with a group. In particular, there are two prayers of "sanctification" you say only in a minyan: the K'dusha prayer — "We sanctify You as do the holy seraphim" — and the Kaddish — "Magnified and sanctified be Your great name." (If you can't recognize the K'dusha, it's probably because you haven't been coming to Shabbos morning services; the K'dusha is not said at night. But why, may

Aunt Yente ask, have you not been coming Shabbos morning?)

But you might ask, why for public prayer ten people? Can't a minyan be made up of nine, or eight, or an even dozen? To this the Talmud provides an answer that can only be called Talmudic. If you promise to hold your yalmulke down tight, Aunt Yente will try to explain.

In the Torah (Leviticus 22:32), God says "I will be sanctified *among* the children of Israel." So the rabbis said, that means that "sanctification" (the K'dusha prayer, and probably Kaddish) can be said only "*among*" the people. But what does "*among*" the people mean? How many others do you need to be "*among*" the people?

To answer this, the rabbis turned (where else?) to another part of the Bible, Numbers 16:21. There, God is angry at the Israelites, and tells Moses and Aaron "separate yourselves from *among* this congregation, and I will destroy it." So how does this help? So the rabbis are thinking that this part of Numbers comes just after the story of the twelve spies that Moses sends to Canaan before the Jews came there. Two spies — Joshua and Caleb — gave a good report of the land, but the other ten (keep your eye on this number) said bad things about it, and accused God of leading the people to destruction. God grew angry in return; and the rabbis connect this anger with the phrase in Numbers 16:21 "separate yourselves from *among* this congregation." According to the rabbis, the congregation that Moses was to separate himself from were the ten spies who slandered the land of Canaan; therefore, "*from among* this congregation" in Numbers 16:21 means from among these ten people (the ten bad spies).

So now go back to Leviticus 22:32 "I will be sanctified *among* the children of Israel." Just as "*among* this congregation" (in numbers 16) means ten people, so "*among* the children of Israel" means ten people. So when God says "I will be sanctified *among* the children of Israel," it means that at least ten people must gather to say the sanctification prayers.

Now if you haven't before studied Talmud, take a few deep breaths, revive yourself with chicken soup and flanken, and then maybe have a bite to eat. If your head is spinning a little bit, so enjoy it; one of the reasons we were given the Talmud was so that we could save money on chemical hallucinogens.

But Aunt Yente knows what some of her readers will say next. This is silly, they will

say; does it make any sense that such tortured logic should tell us when to say prayers? Why should the minimum size of a congregation be set by the number of spies who said bad things about Canaan?

But to your Aunt Yente, what the rabbis are doing makes perfect sense. It was necessary to require some minimum number of people to gather for public prayer, no? If there was no specific minimum, then all the prayers could be said by one or two people, and the mitzvah of gathering together to pray would get disregarded. Ten is maybe not the only number we could have used, but some fixed number we needed; and the rabbis gave us one.

Today, of course, we are much smarter. We wouldn't try to find a number in the Bible; we would hire a consultant who would do market research and statistical analysis and tell us that we must have exactly 11.73 people (plus or minus .68 people) to make up a minyan. This number would make absolutely no more sense than using the number of spies who didn't like Canaan, but it would come out of a computer, so how could we argue with it?

The talmudic rabbis, however, had no computer. (Well, maybe a PC or two, but no megabit hyperchannel data bus architecture adequate to download asynchronous control data with any real chutzpah). So instead, they would let their seichel and their imagination run a little wild, and they came up with a reason to have ten people, which was based on the words of the Torah, and on the idea that the answer to all questions could be found in the words of the Torah if we look hard enough.

Aunt Yente is not sure that she agrees with the rabbis' point of view about the Torah; she can't find anything in it, for example, about how much Nutrasweet she can eat before she starts to look like a laboratory rat. But, kinderlach, she is very sure that it is better to try to find all the answers in the Torah than in the MacIntosh User's Manual. So when Aunt Yente goes to pray, she will continue to look around and make sure that ten women and men are gathered, so that the mitzvah of praying in a minyan can be fulfilled.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1985 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Awards & Honors

(Continued from page 1)

Judah Katz—whose leadership qualities have most recently been demonstrated in his success as coordinator of Social Programs.

Allan Berenstein—whose wit and charm have most effectively managed social events and the Membership Committee.

Alex Ingersoll—who has created, by dint of imagination and hard labor, a newsletter renowned throughout the UAHC. *The Gaily Forward* wins us friends and fans all over the world.

Mark Mendelow—for his tireless efforts as Recorder, in social programming, and on the Rabbi Search Committee. And because he never loses his sense of humor.

Alita Rosenfeld—for her successful and continuous efforts in developing and implementing computerization of our membership data.

Jonathan Funk—for his dedicated and creative work on the Rabbi Search Committee, and for all the excellent counsel and assistance he has so willingly given.

David Gass—for his unflagging willingness to accept tasks, his continuous work during High Holidays, and his leadership of the By-Laws Committee.

Jerry Rosenstein—for his successfully undertaking the task of development, implementation and management of computerized financial records for the Congregation.

Cheryl Orvis—for her dedication to the task of the Rabbi Search Committee. Not only did she serve on the committee; it was under her leadership as President that the committee was created.

David Gellman—who has always had time to do creative work for the Congregation, who can always make us smile, and under whose leadership our Building Committee has accomplished so very much.

Daniel Chesir—for his devotion to the task of the Rabbi Search Committee, his unflagging dedication to Sha'ar Zahav from the very first day of its existence and in appreciation of his endless willingness to serve.

Don Albert—whose years of effective leadership are about to culminate in his Presidency. A gifted and devoted Vice President, he gave to me and the Congregation unfailing support and demonstrated exceptional executive skills.

These wonderful people will receive their "Honors" during the Installation Service on June 28th.

Certificates of Appreciation will be sent to the following people to acknowledge the work they have done for Sha'ar Zahav during the past year. Without the committee work and the special tasks undertaken by these Sha'ar Zahavniks, our past year would not have been as rich, effective or enjoyable as it has been.

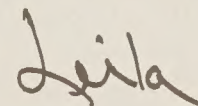
Rabbi Ben Marcus, Tiela Chalmers, Jim Proctor, Dustyn Duncan, Joan Blazewick, David Shaber, Garry Koenigsberg, Mike Rankin, Frank Hyman, Ralph Frischman, Paul Cohen, Steve Greenberg, Eric Keitel, Steve Elman, Terry Rothchild, Susan Unger, Richard Inlander, Barry Siegel, Jay Feinstein, Shelley Spiro, Allyce Kimerling, Diana Buchbinder, Betty Kalis, Joyce Garay, Don Gordon, Ben Schalit, Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Stephanie Hannaford, Barry Rosen, Allan Gold, Ron Wolberg, Bob Berkowitz, Bob Goldware, Elliott Toporek, Shirley Liberman, Lenny Brill, Steve Rosenbaum, Ilene Hirsch, Bob Mackey, David Wasserman, Mike Lipson, Randy Weiss, Peter Abinanti, Michael Chreisman, David McMinn, Susan Greenspan, Jerry Sachs, Chuck Norton, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Bart Benderoff, Irene Ogus, Jill Rose, Harvey Bartnof, Dana Vinicoff, Ellen Kugler.

Special thanks must also be accorded to Marilyn Hertzberg, our Synagogue Administrator, whose hard work during her first year with us helped make my presidency more productive.

On behalf of the entire Sha'ar Zahav family, and the community at large that benefits from our existence and activities, it is with immense pleasure that I make these awards. It is fitting that on this note I complete my presidency.

Together We Make It All Happen!

B'hava u-shalom,



Social Action/JCRC

(Continued from page 6)

cerned, at the least, that even such use of religious symbols would tactically weaken the entire concept of separation of church and state. For that reason, they would caution all religious groups to find private property for the display of religious symbols.

It should be very clear that the concern throughout is *not* with the public display of religious symbols, which indeed the JCRC often encourages, but only with the use of government property or funds.

Calendar—BACSJ vigil at the Soviet Consulate: Green at Baker, Wednesday, July 10, 11:30 a.m. to noon. Social Action Committee meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m. at the Synagogue.

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

A SCHANDE!

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114, or pick up at services, every Friday night at 8:15.

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 861-6932

Officers:

President, Don Albert
Vice President, Leslie Bergson
Treasurer, to be appointed
Recorder, Richard Inlander

Rabbi: Yoel Kahn. Please contact the Synagogue Office regarding Rabbi Kahn's schedule and availability for counseling.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ron Lezell
Shirley Liberman
Irene Ogus
Cheryl Orvis
Mike Rankin
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, by committee
Finance, David Shaber
Membership, Bob Berkowitz
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Women's Havurah, Allyce Kimerling

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Administrator: Marilyn Hertzberg

The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Member: Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Light One Candle, Save One Life

In flight from famine, tens of thousands of Ethiopian families have left their homes in a desperate search for sustenance. By day they sit in the blazing African sun. At night they huddle together for warmth under the open sky. Millions of men and women around the world have been moved to help.

Now there is a visible Jewish presence in confronting the catastrophic starvation in Ethiopia. It is based on the Talmud: To save one life is to save the world.

It began in Jerusalem, where a private citizen, Abie Nathan, raised \$100,000 in a single night to buy tents and medicine for Ethiopia famine victims. It continues in America, where the movement of Reform Judaism has pledged to support this initiative and help build a complete tent city: 600 tents plus tons of medical supplies and equipment for 6,000 homeless in Ethiopia.

The first tents and medical supplies were flown into Ethiopia in December. Each tent is imprinted with the legend, "From Jerusalem With Love." Each bears the Star

of David, symbol of the Jewish people. A team of volunteer Israeli physicians is providing medical care. Food has been contributed by many governments, religious groups, and voluntary agencies, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is providing emergency clothing supplies and meeting urgent medical needs.

Saving lives is the ultimate mitzvah in the Jewish tradition. Our answer to the horror of massive famine in Ethiopia cannot be to turn aside or look away. Let us give the most precious gift of all—the gift of life.

Please send what you can to Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, UAHC Ethiopian Relief, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021.

— Mike Rankin

Classified Ads

ROOMMATE WANTED for exceptional Bernal Heights home. Non-smoker. Avail. Aug. 1. Call 821-4257.

Calendar for 1985

August 1985

Sun 4 Women's Chavurah
BBQ/Pool Party
Sun 11 Softball Game/Picnic
Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
Sun 25 Mysticism Workshop:
Dance

September 1985

Sun 15 Castro Street Fair
Sun 15 Erev Rosh Hashanah
Mon 16 Rosh Hashanah
Tue 24 Kol Nidre
Wed 25 Yom Kippur
Sun 29 Erev Succot
Mon 30 1st Day Succot

October 1985

Thu 31 Int'l UAHC Biennial opens
in Los Angeles

November 1985

Tue 5 Last day of Int'l UAHC
Biennial

December 1985

Sat 7 Chanukah 1st Candle